Programs and Events, Fall 2013

Tues, October 8, 5:30-7:30 pm. College, Career and Service Fair and Open House. Clover Park High School, 11023 Gravelly Lake Dr SW, Lakewood. Annual event open to students, families and the general public. Society will have a table to solicit high school student volunteers for projects.

Tues, October 15, 7-9 pm. The Culture and Heritage of the Nisqually Indian Tribe. The culture and heritage of one the major Indian tribes in the South Puget Sound will be presented by tribal representatives. Free and open to the public. Refreshments served.


Thurs, October 17, 1 pm. “Let’s Make History Together” Series: The Lakewood Library: From Humble Beginnings to a 21st Century Facility. Lakewood Senior Activity Center, 9112 Lakewood Dr SW. Presentation by Becky Huber on the Lakewood Library, which began in a small store front and grew into the largest facility in the Pierce County Library System. Free to public. Call 253-798-4090 to sign up.

Tues, November 19, 7-9 pm. The Legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers / Society Annual Meeting. Jackie Jones-Hook, Director of the Buffalo Soldiers Museum will present history of soldiers who served in the 9th/10th Calvary Units; Annual Meeting to celebrate Society’s 16th Anniversary, elect Board members, list past year’s accomplishments and recognize volunteers. Free and open to the public. Refreshments served.

December Event. To be announced at a later date.

Unless otherwise noted, monthly programs are held in the Parish Hall of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 10030 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, next to the Lakewood Library.

Find us on Facebook (search for Lakewood Historical Society Washington State) or check our website for more information and current events: www.LakewoodHistorical.org

The Lakewo Playhouse, located in the heart of the city, celebrates 75 years of performances this season, with over 450 plays and musicals and one million volunteer hours contributing to the theater's success.

Nearly five times the age of the City of Lakewood, the Playhouse first opened in 1938 and has evolved with the city since its incorporation in 1996. An intimate theater seating 167 audience members, the Lakewo Playhouse is the oldest "black box" theater in Washington State. The black box theatre environment concentrates on the theatrical performances with minimal sets and parallels the Playhouse's focus on community.

"Theatre is created through the relationship between performers and their audience. Theatre is like a family and we look forward to many more generations of designers, actors, directors and audience members who will join ours for years to come," says

Lakewo Playhouse Managing Artistic Director, John Munn. "We can’t wait to share this momentous anniversary and 75th season with the community.

Over the last 75 years, the Playhouse has flourished due to the Lakewo community’s involvement and love of the performing arts with volunteers donating over one million hours as designers, actors, directors and front of the house staff. Additionally, the Playhouse offers an education program to build confidence and theatrical skills. More than 4,500 children and young adults have graduated from the program over the last 15 years.

The 75th anniversary celebration was kicked off Friday, September 13th. All of the pre-performance evening festivities were free and included a ribbon cutting with the Lakewo Chamber of Commerce with special guests Deputy Mayor Jason Whalen, City Councilwoman Marie Barth and newly hired City Manager, John Caufield and a proclamation of "Lakewo Playhouse Day" from the City of Lakewood, plus a silent auction and wine and cheese reception generously donated by 21 Cellars Wine; hors d’oeuvres by Carr’s Restaurant.
President’s Message
Can you believe the summer we had this year? I actually grew tomatoes that fully ripened for the first time. Even though the impatient have faded in the cooler weather, I have vibrant yellow mums ready to be planted.
We have had a very busy summer in the Society as well. Lots of outreach opportunities. I’d like to thank all of our volunteers for their hard work in promoting the Society and Museum. We especially enjoyed being at the City of Lakewood’s Farmers Market. We will definitely do it again next year.
Because we didn’t have a big fund raising event this summer, we tried to continue with monthly programs but attendance was down due to everyone’s busy schedules. See the back page of the newsletter for the rest of this year’s schedule. Let us know if you have any program topics you’d like presented. At this time plans for a signature event this year have not been made.

Please be sure to put November 19th on your calendar. Not only will we be having our annual recognition of veterans, we have added some special elements to this: THE 50th Annual Meeting to celebrate our 50th Anniversary of the Society. Jack Jones-Hook, the Executive Director of the Buffalo Soldier Museum in Tacoma, WA, will share their rich legacy and display artifacts collected by his father, William Jones. For the Annual Meeting we will elect Society officers and directors, have a brief overview of the past year’s accomplishments and honor volunteers who have made significant contributions to the Society.

Recently, the Board has been discussing the feasibility of moving to a larger museum space. We have been at our current location for 7 years and we are “busting at the seams”.

There is lack of adequate storage space for our growing collection; potentially valuable exhibits using donated artifacts are unable to be displayed; there is no wall space to recognize volunteers, community partners and business sponsors; the reference library is limited to one bookcase in the office that has limited access to visitors and there is such little open floor space that committee meetings are set up in the middle of exhibit areas. All could be managed effectively if we expanded into a 5,000 sq ft space.

This tripling of our museum will require a much larger financial base of support than we currently have. Therefore, we want you to respond to our Annual Museum Fund campaign. Not only do we want you to make a donation to the best of your ability, we want you to recoup THE 50S to the Board if you are not already a member.

This purposeful action affords your place to be a part of the growth we are planning. You will have the unique opportunity to be an integral part of something great.
I am forever grateful for your loyalty and support.

Becky Huber

COLLECTIONS CHRONICLE
by G. Scott, Chairman

Welcome to a new column about the wonderful gifts that have been given and are being given to the Lakewood History Museum. Each gift officially added to our collections helps the Museum preserve our past and keeps our Lakewood story alive and available to present and future residents. It is the hope that this column will provide an ongoing report of the activities of the museum’s Collections Committee as it accepts and processes your precious gifts.

Each gift presented to the Museum goes through an assessment process by the Collections Committee prior to official addition to our collections as approved by the Lakewood History Museum’s Board of Directors.

That assessment by the Collections Committee is governed by a Collections Development Policy developed by the museum’s Board of Directors. This policy spells out the criteria to be used in evaluating each gift entrusted to us by our supporters.

This assessment begins when a person brings a gift to the Museum. After having made the first difficult decision to part with the treasured object or objects, the second decision about this gift is also made by the donor. At the time the gift is brought into the museum, the staff person on duty asks the person to fill out a Temporary Custody Form. In addition to briefly describing the gift that is being presented, and providing us with the name, address and phone number of the donor (to allow us to contact the donor if we have questions about the history of the item and to officially thank the donor with a letter), there is a critical question on this form in which the donor should give serious thought. That question is:

If the museum should decide that it cannot use your gift, do you wish to have it returned to you? Yes __ No __

If the donor determines that they wish to have the gift returned, a member of the Collections Committee will contact the donor and arrange to return the object/objects to him/her. However, if the donor does not wish to have the object returned, it becomes the responsibility of the Collections Committee to find a future home for the item in question.

When our evaluation of an item results in the reluctant decision that the treasured item under review does not help the Museum advance its educational mission, the decision we often make—and the decision that makes us the happiest—is to offer the item in question to one of our neighboring museums. If the staff of that museum agrees that the item in question will indeed help that museum tell its story, a member of the Collections Committee arranges for the safe transfer of the object.

In our next column, we will explore the process by which an object becomes an official accession of the Lakewood History Museum.

Tillicum Woman Marks Milestone Birthday

By Nancy Covert
Virginia Maas of Tillicum marked her centennial birthday in August.

It was her wish to keep the occasion “low key.”

A life-long resident of the community founded two years before she was born, the regal-looking, spry woman marked the occasion by greeting a few friends and enjoying the gracing cards and floral arrangements that were delivered to her home.

Jim Taylor, representing the Tillicum Neighborhood Association, presented a card signed by Neighborhood members and a commemorative City of Lakewood Coin. Christina Klas served as “official photographer” for the occasion. Virginia’s brother, Gordon, (15 years younger) and his wife, Janelle, also were there.

Virginia, who moved to the Northwest in the early 1920s with her parents from New Hampshire, married John Maas, son of their next-door neighbor in their Woodbrook neighborhood.

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PRAIRIE GAZETTE

Prairie Gazette is the official publication of the Lakewood Historical Society. The newsletter is published four times a year. Distribution is limited to members and staff of the Lakewood History Museum, 6211 Mt. Tacoma Drive SW, Lakewood, WA 98498. Phone: 253-882-3480

The staff of Prairie Gazette actively encourages input from the Society’s members as well as the general public regarding stories and news of other aspects of this newsletter, and the Lakewood Historical Society.

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MEETINGS

The Lakewood Historical Society formed in 1998 to preserve and share Lakewood’s rich history through programs, displays and publications. The Society offers frequent programs on topics of historical interest. Most programs are free and open to the public. Visit us on Facebook or our website for information on events and activities:

www.LakewoodHistorical.org

LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Opening Cash on Hand - 01/01/2013 $ 11,538.16
Income – Jan thru August $ 56,585.40
Expenses – Jan thru August $ 47,395.74
Closing Cash on Hand - 08/31/2013 $ 20,727.82

Page 11
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was celebrated by over 100 guests at the home of Rich and Connie Hildahl in Longbranch, WA on the Key Peninsula along Filucy Bay.

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Built in 1893 in San Francisco, El Primero first came to Tacoma in 1906 when Chester Thorne (who had Thornwood Castle on American Lake built in 1911) purchased the vessel from San Franciscoan Edward Hopkins.

Five years later, ownership in the iron-clad steam vessel was signed over to Sam Perkins, Tacoma Daily Ledger Publisher. Over time, the yacht became known as "Tacoma's Party Boat."

El Primero Returns to Tacoma

By Nancy Covert

A sleek, 130-ft yacht, seen frequently in Commencement Bay in the early 1900s, returned to lower Puget Sound as part of the 2013 Tacoma Maritime Fest held in August.

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during the intermission of the performance of Arsenic & Old Lace, a live auction was held to support the Lakewood Institute of Theater and the building endowment. Auction items included glass artwork, signed memorabilia from Broadway shows as well as memorabilia from Dustin Hoffman and Jerry Lewis. The silent auction will continue through October 13th and may be viewed in the Playhouse’s most recent newsletter. Sign up to receive it by visiting their website, www.lakewoodplayhouse.org.

“Our community is fortunate to have a cultural gem for the performing arts such as the Lakewood Playhouse,” adds Ellie Chambers-Grady, economic development manager for the City of Lakewood. “We’re looking forward to the 75th season and to someday celebrating the Playhouse’s centennial anniversary.”

There were some poignant moments during the evening when the noticeable absence of one person was particularly felt. Marcus Walker, the previous Artistic Director who passed away in March, 2011, would have thoroughly enjoyed the festivities. During his ten years of leadership the Playhouse reconfigured the stage to accommodate any production, greatly expanded its financial support base and initiated the youth theater. His philosophy is still held to this day.

“We are a community theatre with professional aspirations.”

Passing the Torch: Lighting an appreciation for local history

by Nancy Covert

What’s the most valuable legacy you can pass on to the next generation?

Money? Jewelry? Paintings?

An appreciation for History!

That’s B O R I N G!

Not true, either.

Usually it’s not until about a decade after students have completed their formal education (K-12) that they gain an appreciation and understanding for HISTORY. Thanks to mentors, such as YOU, who take time to share what they know about the past, that interest may occur sooner.

Here in Lakewood, the Historical Society hopes to begin a “Passing the Torch” program this fall, working with teachers and students to help them better understand the rich legacy of this community. While the City of Lakewood was formally created into a City in 1996, Lakewood’s history began long before American settlers homesteaded on the shores of area lakes.

by Nancy Covert

Remains from the mile-thick glacier about 14,000 years ago, according to geologists, created about a dozen lakes that gave Lakewood its name. It also provided materials for many industries, such as Holroyd’s—a long-time Lakewood business. According to the company history published in 2006, Canadian immigrant (by way of England) Arthur Holroyd established his company in the late 1800s, several years after beginning a hauling company in McKenna.

Like many young men of his era, Holroyd came to the “City of Destiny” that Allen C. Mason and others were promoting, and decided the time was right to get into the business of selling building products.

Beginning with salvaged ballast from Belgian ships, he soon was selling sand, gravel, concrete pipes, cement blocks, stucco and plaster. Soon he acquired property south of Tacoma in Lakewood, and was on his way to achieving a dream that would have been impossible to him in his native England.

Soon his children, Alma Marie and James Arthur, joined their father, working for the company. Their children and grandchildren eventually joined the family business.

Like many businesses, though, they faced challenges—such as a time in the 1960s when neighbors blocked access to a Holroyd site during a property dispute. Holroyd hired a helicopter to transport raw materials in boxes to be washed, a practice they continued until the dispute was resolved.

A major triumph for the company took place in 1974 when, for nine days, Holroyd mixer trucks delivered concrete for the pour that resulted in the Tacoma grain elevators that stand along the Schuster Parkway.

According to Holroyd’s centennial magazine article, “over the years the company has achieved a balance that allowed us to survive.”

“We’re very fortunate that way,” said Steve Nielsen, company president.
“Structure Well Equipped and Modern—Good Program Given”

On an early autumn evening in 1916 about 200 patrons of the Lake City School District gathered for dedication ceremonies of their new school building and escorted visitors through the splendid modern structure.

Cost of the new building? $13,000.

Residents are truly proud of the new home of knowledge, for it is one of the finest country schools on the Pacific Coast, comprising as it does an auditorium, gymnasium, shower baths, manual training and domestic science departments, according to the Tacoma Daily Ledger reporter who covered the event.

Other excerpts from the Ledger’s report:

The lighting arrangement is perfect and by night, gas is used as an illuminant. The auditorium, especially constructed for neighborhood gathering and amateur performances, was well filled last night.

District board of directors included W.E. Morris, chairman; Alice B. Woodroofe and Andrew Lowe. Mr. Morris was the chairman of the dedicatory exercises.

The audience sang “America” with gusto and baptized the new school house with the national hymn. Mr. Morris welcomed the visitors and introduced the speakers.

Miss Fern Jones, teacher of the younger pupils, teaches them something additional to the three R’s, for a number of them did a shoemaker’s dance. W. C. Bertram of Tacoma sang a Scotch song and Miss Jessie Lowe danced a Highland dance, the “Seann Trubbas,” and her father demonstrated that he is capable of being musical as well as directing the affairs of the district. He played the pipes as an accompanying, giving a true Caledonian tang to the number.

E.E. Crook, assistant superintendent of the Tacoma schools, congratulated the residents of the district on their enterprise in providing such an institution for the betterment of their children.

Judge Fremont Campbell contrasted educational advantages in that locality now to a quarter of a century ago, when he was raising his family there.

The boys and the girls of today are brighter than they were in that day, and they ought to be, for they have superior facilities for gaining knowledge. This is a school of today and expresses the ideals of the present.

Miss Isabel Pratt is principal of the school, and her students sang a song under her direction and with her accompaniment.

“We may bring forth everything Washington can produce, but if we do not bring forth citizens who can master these valleys and conquer the mountains, we have failed,” said Dr. E. H. Todd, president of the College of Puget Sound. “Character building is what this school is for, and I think that the training of men to be trusted is all important.”

“Creation of ideals is what we want. Some time in the past some man saw this school building in his brain. Then he carried the message to others and he carried the message to others, and finally we see the reality. But that man had to have the ideal before this structure could be. We must teach the child to think, and then we have ideals. Let us offer a silent prayer that God will be with you in your work every day.”

“Information provided by Peggy Bal.”

Written by Fran Aden
Printed in The Suburban Times
November 18, 1965

There have been many “First Nights” for the Lakewood Players in the past 25 years, but none like this one and the excitement of opening Taming of the Shrew in the Lakewood Players’ new theatre.

In 1939 Mrs. Ray Thompson and Mrs. Joseph Lансs conceived the idea of bringing live theater to the Lakes District. In those days almost the only commercial area on the “Prairie” was the Lakewood Center, which included the drug store, a few shops and the Lakewood Movie Theatre.

Mrs. Burton James of the Repertory Theatre in Seattle agreed to come to Lakewood and conduct a weekly course in theater art to some 30 people.

Opening night is a culmination of a dream born in hearts of drama minded Lakewoodites. On April 24, 1941 they presented their first play, Pomeroy’s Past, as a one-night-stand on the stage of the Lakewood Tied Theatre. The roster of names associated with that first production included Lillian Thompson, Peg Large, Norton Clapp, Carin Allen, Martha Anthony, Alberta Johnson, Mary and Harry Johnson and their daughter Mary, Lee Johnson, Deanie and Frank Gillette, Tom Dutkovich, Ed Carozian and Pearl Rebeck.

These people became the nucleus of the Lakewood Community Players, Inc. Their first meeting was held in the loft of the Little Church on the Prairie to organize and accept a constitution. Others joined—Ed Johnson, Mona Mook, Ellia and Harold Enger, Marion and Perry Crothers, Maggie Mace, Wyn McMahon, Janice Owens, Fred and Del Schwab, Patty and Allen Forsythe.

The constitution caused some trouble too. Norton Clapp wanted to be specific about the clause concerning expulsion for members. It was agreed that this should be “for unbearable conduct over an extended period of time.” That satisfied Norton, and it was omitted altogether as a condition only remotely related to drama lovers. But the dream of their own playhouse lived on.

The Players first home was the DeKoven Inn. It was in those days that Allen Forsythe used to fly in from far off places, dump his flying togs in the wings and walk on if he had been there since 43:00.

And then there was John Canapeau who took the lead in Petticoat Favor—he was stationed at F1 Lewis—at the same time he was star of a movie at the Lakewood Theatre. For that run, the chief job of the Players’ janitor was hauling wheelbarrow loads of swooning teenagers to the compost heap.

And then there was the night the lights went out. But the audience waited while candles were lit and the play went on.

The pressures of war forced the Players to suspend activities, but the dream was not forgotten.

In the spring of 1945, the Players met again, this time in the basement of the Lakewood Colonial Center. Reorganization took place and plays, carnivals, raffles and more plays became the order of the year.

Enthusiastic audience members became Lakewood Players actors, producers, and back stage, box office and publicly
RAIDERS WELCOMED HOME
By Becky Huber

On Sunday, September 15th, the City of Lakewood gave an old fashioned heroes’ homecoming to the Raiders, the 4th Stryker Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division, who had returned in July from their most recent 9 month deployment to Afghanistan.

The celebration started with a real “main street” parade of over 2,000 soldiers and a dozen of their Stryker vehicles or “trucks”. The companies of soldiers were followed by a large contingent of Patriot Guard Riders on motorcycles and vehicles from West Pierce Fire and Rescue and Lakewood Police Department.

Following the parade, a grand stand filled with community leaders, military representatives and Gold Star families assembled in front of the soldiers in formation on the site of the recently demolished Gottschalks Department Store. The official “welcome home” was extended by Mayor Don Anderson and Congressman Denny Heck.

The 4-2 Brigade has had a formal partnership as a “Community Connector” with the City of Lakewood since 2006 and has been fortunate to have kept in touch with their assigned unit, the 472nd Signal Company, since 2009. We have seen them through two different commanders and two different deployments. Their soldiers have played a huge role in the Society’s major fund raising events for the last two years.

Colonel Michael Getchell, commander of the 4-2, accepted the thanks of a grateful community. He expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the special relationship that has developed with the City and the support everyone has extended to the soldiers and their families. The parade and ceremony was especially timely because of the recent announcement that the Brigade will be inactivated starting next year.

The celebration continued in the afternoon. A P-A-R-T-Y of major proportions was held in Fort Steilacoom Park on the site of the annual SummerFEST, put on by the City’s Parks and Recreation Department. It included a first time ever beer garden, live entertainment on a stage decorated with thousands of yellow flowers, free pizza supplied by Little Caesar’s and sponsored by AUSA, and static displays of military and city vehicles.

Numerous community organizations had booths, many offering free items, as a way of saying “Thank You” to our military. This was a day that the residents of the City of Lakewood and the soldiers of the Brigade will never forget no matter what the future holds.

A GRAVE WRONG, RIGHTED AT LAST
By Nancy Covert

A 1,500 lb. headstone that had been placed at the burial site of William Wallace, both the first Territorial Governor of Idaho, and Steilacoom’s first mayor (1871-1879), was restored at the historic cemetery at Western State Hospital. Premier Monument of Tacoma repaired the monument after it had been vandalized.

The Town of Steilacoom paid for the restoration. The headstone had originally been placed in 1951 by members of Steilacoom Masonic Lodge No. 2, of which Wallace had been Master.

Historic re-enactor David Leroy (former L.L. Governor of Idaho) portrayed Wallace in April at the Living History Day at Fort Steilacoom. His presentation, done in the style of Wallace having just returned from Washington, D. C., was most convincing. Steilacoom’s current mayor, Ron Lucas, met “Mr. Wallace” that afternoon (below).
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Information provided by Peggy Bal

Written by Fran Aden
Printed in The Suburban Times
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Those “First Night” Memories

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Enthusiastic audience members became Lakewood Players actors, producers, and back stage, box office and publicly


Those were the days of “Suds in Your Eye” when the players had a fence made entirely of beer cans. Although the cans were donated by a local brewery, some of the actors grumbled because they arrived empty (the cans that is.) You can’t please everyone.

Keep an eye peeled for Seymour History. You never know where he’ll turn up!
Holroyd’s—In business since 1906

By Nancy Covert

Remains from the mile-thick glacier about 14,000 years ago, according to geologists, created about a dozen lakes that gave Lakewood its name. It also provided materials for many industries, such as Holroyd’s—a long-time Lakewood business.

According to the company history published in 2006, Canadian immigrant (by way of England) Arthur Holroyd established his company in the late 1800s, several years after beginning a hauling company in McKenna.

Like many young men of his era, Holroyd came to the “City of Destiny” that Allen C. Mason and others were promoting, and decided the time was right to get into the business of selling building products.

Beginning with salvaged ballast from Belgian ships, he soon was selling sand, gravel, concrete pipes, cement blocks, stucco and plaster. Soon he acquired property south of Tacoma in Lakewood, and was on his way to achieving a dream that would have been impossible to him in his native England.

Soon his children, Alma Marie and James Arthur, joined their father, working for the company. Their children and grandchildren eventually joined the family business.

Like many businesses, though, they faced challenges—such as a time in the 1960s when neighbors blocked access to a Holroyd site during a property dispute.

Holroyd hired a helicopter to transport raw materials in boxes to be washed, a practice they continued until the dispute was resolved.

A major triumph for the company took place in 1974 when, for nine days, Holroyd mixer trucks delivered concrete for the pour that resulted in the Tacoma grain elevators that stand along the Schuster Parkway.

According to Holroyd’s centennial magazine article, “over the years the company has achieved a balance that allowed us to survive.”

“We’re very fortunate that way,” said Steve Nielsen, company president.

Passing the Torch: Lighting an appreciation for local history

by Nancy Covert

What’s the most valuable legacy you can pass on to the next generation?

Money? Jewelry? Paintings?

An appreciation for History?

That’s B O R I N G!

Not true, either.

Usually it’s not until about a decade after students have completed their formal education (K-12) that they gain an appreciation and understanding for HISTORY. Thanks to mentors, such as YOU, who take time to share what they know about the past, that interest may occur sooner.

Here in Lakewood, the Historical Society hopes to begin a “Passing the Torch” program this fall, working with teachers and students to help them better understand the rich legacy of this community.

While the City of Lakewood was formally created into a City in 1996, Lakewood’s history began long before American settlers homesteaded on the shores of area lakes.

Theater from Page 1

The event was graced with the presence of Miss Pierce County, Haley Nicholson and Miss Pierce County Teen, Brooke Williams.

During the intermission of the performance of Arsenic & Old Lace, a live auction was held to support the Lakewood Institute of Theater and the building endowment. Auction items included glass artwork, signed memorabilia from Broadway shows as well as memorabilia from Dustin Hoffman and Jerry Lewis. The silent auction will continue through October 13th and may be viewed in the Playhouse’s most recent newsletter. Sign up to receive it by visiting their website, www.lakewoodplayhouse.org.

“Weour community is fortunate to have a cultural gem for the performing arts such as the Lakewood Playhouse,” adds Ellie Chambers-Grady, economic development manager for the City of Lakewood. “We’re looking forward to the 75th season and to someday celebrating the Playhouse’s centennial anniversary.”

Artistic Director John Munn (right) and his staff.

There were some poignant moments during the evening when the noticeable absence of one person was particularly felt. Marcus Walker, the previous Artistic Director who passed away in March, 2011, would have thoroughly enjoyed the festivities.

During his ten years of leadership the Playhouse reconfigured the stage to accommodate any production, greatly expanded its financial support base and initiated the youth theater. His philosophy is still held to this day,

“We are a community theatre with professional aspirations.”
El Primero Returns to Tacoma

By Nancy Covert

A sleek, 130-ft yacht, seen frequently in Commencement Bay in the early 1900s, returned to Puget Sound as part of the 2013 Tacoma Maritime Fest held in August. It was celebrated by over 100 guests at the home of Rich and Connie Hildahl in Longbranch, WA on the Key Peninsula along Filucy Bay.

It was announced at the Tacoma Historical Society’s September meeting that El Primero will be wintering in Tacoma and the owner may be keeping the yacht in Tacoma indefinitely as a potential tour boat. A cruise may be one of the auction items for THS’s annual Destiny Dinner.

Built in 1893 in San Francisco, El Primero first came to Tacoma in 1906 when Chester Thorne (who had Thornewood Castle on American Lake built in 1911) purchased the vessel from San Franciscan Edward Hopkins.

Five years later, ownership in the iron-clad steam vessel was signed over to Sam Perkins, Tacoma Daily Ledger Publisher. Over time, the yacht became known as “Tacoma’s Party Boat.”

PREMIER - $1,000 or more
The Dimmer Family Foundation
LTG William (Bill) Harrison (Ret)
The Helen and John Vogt Foundation

PATRON - $500 to $999
Mike & Sue Raney / Beverley Bills
John and Becky Huber
Carol and Jim Moreno

PARTNER - $200 to $499
Charlie Eckstrom
Carol Else
Gary and Karen Fowler
Horace F. Gams
Clyde Kalahan
Carol and Jim Moreno
Henry Schatz
Glen and Marlene Spieth
Raye Staples
David and Barbara Young

ASSOCIATE - $100 to $199
Allan and Jeanne Emmons
Scott Gamas and Joey Pelgrim
William L. Jackson
Denny and Diana Kirby
Edward C. Klopping Ill
Col Karl and Sue Lorenz
Florence March
Mary Lou and Dave Peterson
Robin and Linda Rego
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Memorial gifts in Honor of:
Brian C. Davis
by Kristin E. Davis

Honorary contributions:
Rose Murphy Endowment
“Keep Lakewood Beautiful”
by Robert Warfield
President's Message

Can you believe the summer we had this year? I actually grew tomatoes that fully ripened for the first time. Even though the heatwave has had a pronounced effect on the weather, I have vibrant yellow mums ready to be planted.

We have had a very busy summer in the Society as well. Lots of outreach opportunities. I'd like to thank all of our volunteers for their hard work in promoting the Society and Museum. We especially enjoyed being at the City of Lakewood's Farmers Market. We will definitely do it again next year.

Because we didn't have a big fund raising event this summer, we tried to continue with monthly programs but attendance was down due to everyone's busy schedules. See the back page of the newsletter for the rest of this year's schedule. Let us know if you have any program topics you'd like presented. At this time plans for a signature event this year have not been made.

Please be sure to put November 19th on your calendar. Not only will we be having our annual recognition of veterans, we have added some special elements to our Annual Meeting to celebrate our 15th Anniversary of the Society.

Jack Jones-Hook, Executive Director of the Buffalo Soldier Museum in Tacoma, WA, will share their rich legacy and display artifacts collected by his father, William Jones. For the Annual Meeting we will elect Society officers and directors, have a brief overview of the past year's accomplishments and honor volunteers who have made significant contributions to the Society.

Recently, the Board has been discussing the feasibility of moving to a larger museum space. We have been at our current location for 7 years and we are “busting at the seams.”

There is lack of adequate storage space for our growing collection; potentially valuable exhibits using donated artifacts are unable to be displayed; there is no wall space to recognize volunteers, community partners and business sponsors; the reference library is limited to one bookcase in the office that has limited access to visitors and there is such little open floor space that committee meetings are set up in the middle of exhibit areas. All could be managed effectively if we expanded into a 5,000 sq ft space.

This tripling of our museum will require a much larger financial base of support than we currently have. Therefore, we want you to respond to our Annual Museum Fund campaign. Not only do we want you to make a donation to the best of your ability, we want you to join the effort to raise the $5,000,000 for the new building if you are not already a member.

This purposeful effort affords you the privilege to be a part of the growth we are planning. You will have the unique opportunity to be an integral part of something great.

I am forever grateful for your loyalty and support.

Becky Huber

Lakewood Historical Society Financial Statement

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Opening Cash on Hand</th>
<th>Income – Jan thru August</th>
<th>Expenses – Jan thru August</th>
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If the museum should decide that it cannot use your gift, do you wish to have it returned to you?

Yes ___ No ___

When our evaluation of an item results in the reluctant decision that the treasured item under review does not help the Museum advance its educational mission, the decision we often make—and the decision that makes us the happiest—to is offer the item in question to one of our neighboring museums. If the staff of that museum agrees that the item in question will indeed help that museum tell its story, a member of the Collections Committee arranges for the safe transfer of the object.

In our next column, we will explore the process by which an object becomes an official accession of the Lakewood History Museum.

Virginia Maas of Tillicum marked her centennial birthday in August.

It was her wish to keep the occasion "low key." A lifelong resident of the community founded two years before she was born, the regal-looking, spry woman marked the occasion by greeting a few friends and enjoying the greeting cards and floral arrangements that were delivered to her home.

Jim Taylor, representing the Tillicum Neighborhood Association, presented a card signed by neighborhood members and a commemorative City of Lakewood Coin. Christina Klas served as "official photographer" for the occasion. Virginia's brother, Gordon, (15 years younger) and his wife, Janelle, also were there.

Virginia, who moved to the Northwest in the early 1920s with her parents from New Hampshire, married John Maas, son of their next-door neighbor in their Woodbrook neighborhood.
The Lakewood Playhouse, located in the heart of the city, celebrates 75 years of performances this season, with over 450 plays and musicals and one million volunteer hours contributing to the theater’s success.

Nearly five times the age of the City of Lakewood, the Playhouse first opened in 1938 and has evolved with the city since its incorporation in 1996. An intimate theater seating 167 audience members, the Lakewood Playhouse is the oldest “black box” theater in Washington State. The black box theatre environment concentrates on the theatrical performances with minimal sets and parallels the Playhouse’s focus on community.

“Theatre is created through the relationship between performers and their audience. Theatre is like a family and we look forward to many more generations of designers, actors, directors and audience members who will join ours for years to come,” says John Munn, Managing Artistic Director.

Lakewood Playhouse Managing Artistic Director, John Munn.

“We can’t wait to share this momentous anniversary and 75th season with the community.”

Over the last 75 years, the Playhouse has flourished due to the Lakewood community’s involvement and love of the performing arts with volunteers donating over one million hours as designers, actors, directors and front of the house staff. Additionally, the Playhouse offers an education program to build confidence and theatrical skills. More than 4,500 children and young adults have graduated from the program over the last 15 years.

The 75th anniversary celebration was kicked off Friday, September 13th. All of the pre-performance evening festivities were free and included a ribbon cutting with the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce with special guests Deputy Mayor Jason Whalen, City Councilwoman Marie Barth and newly hired City Manager, John Caulfield and a proclamation of "Lakewood Playhouse Day" from the City of Lakewood, plus a silent auction and wine and cheese reception generously donated by 21 Cellars Wine; hors'd'oeuvres by Carr's Restaurant.

See THEATER, page 4

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Programs and Events, Fall 2013

- Tues, October 8, 5:30-7:30 pm. College, Career and Service Fair and Open House. Clover Park High School, 11023 Gravelly Lake Dr SW, Lakewood. Annual event open to students, families and the general public. Society will have a table to solicit high school student volunteers for projects.
- Tues, October 15, 7-9 pm. The Culture and Heritage of the Nisqually Indian Tribe. The culture and heritage of one the major Indian tribes in the South Puget Sound will be presented by tribal representatives. Free and open to the public. Refreshments served.
- Thurs, October 17, 1 pm. “Let’s Make History Together” Series: The Lakewood Library: From Humble Beginnings to a 21st Century Facility. Lakewood Senior Activity Center, 9112 Lakewood Dr SW. Presentation by Becky Huber on the Lakewood Library, which began in a small store front and grew into the largest facility in the Pierce County Library System. Free to the public. Call 253-798-4090 to sign up.
- Tues, November 19, 7-9 pm. The Legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers / Society Annual Meeting. Jackie Jones-Hook, Director of the Buffalo Soldiers Museum will present history of soldiers who served in the 9th/10th Calvary Units; Annual Meeting to celebrate Society’s 15th Anniversary, elect Board members, list past year’s accomplishments and recognize volunteers. Free and open to the public. Refreshments served.
- December Event. To be announced at a later date.

Unless otherwise noted, similar programs are held in the Parish Hall of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 10030 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, next to the Lakewood Library.

Find us on Facebook (search for Lakewood Historical Society Washington State) or check our website for more information and current events: www.LakewoodHistorical.org